

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced it has processed the funds secured last year by Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) for the Natividad Medical Center Diabetes Self-Management Program. Natividad will receive \$118,886.

"Hispanics suffer from diabetes at a far greater rate than the general population, but there are very few outlets offering assistance in disease management," **Rep. Farr said.** "These funds will allow Natividad to improve the quality of life for many Central Coast residents."

Natividad Medical Center will use the funds to implement a comprehensive Latino Diabetes Care Management Initiative. The program is designed to reduce complications resulting from poor disease management as well as the costs associated with those complications.

The program will include:

- six months of Hemoglobin A1c monitoring of participants to assess improvements in glucose control over the course of the intervention
- individual and group counseling and diabetes and education
- increased access to Internet-based health care information.

"Almost half the population of Monterey County is Latino, and the prevalence of Type 2 Diabetes is 1.5 times greater for Latinos than other ethnic groups," **said Chesney**

Hoagland-Fuchs

, Natividad's diabetes education coordinator. "The vast majority of this vulnerable population is low-income and rely on our hospital and other safety-net resources for health care."

"Rep. Farr is a hero to our patients and those of us who have the honor to serve them," Hoagland-Fuchs said. "He understands the importance of health care to the quality of life for our citizens and our community."

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